

Carroll Free Press.

VOL. II

CARROLLTON, FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1836.

NO. 34.—WHOLE NO. 85

Address TO THE PEOPLE OF OHIO.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

One of the most important of the privileges of a free people, is that which is involved in the right of suffrage. It is chiefly through the medium of his independent and unbiased vote, that the free citizen of a republic, is distinguished from the subject of a Monarch. Nor is there any duty so sacred, or imperative, in the political relations which bind us together as a people, as that of expressing deliberately by our votes, our opinions in reference to all public measures, which may affect the honor, or prosperity of our beloved country; and especially in the selection of those high officers to whom the larger share of power is delegated by our system, and whose acts and counsels, exercise an important influence, for good or for evil, not only on our national character, but also on our public and private enterprise and prosperity. Such however is the great confidence of the American people in each other and the efficacy of our Republican Institutions, and so happily have we thus been preserved from any great national misfortune, that many of our best, and most respectable citizens have grown careless in the exercise of the suffrage; and thousands either absent themselves from the polls, or vote with little reflection, the ticket prepared for them by others. The power of electing to office, thus neglected by its rightful possessors, is eagerly grasped by demagogues, and by ambitious men; who under the pretence of superior patriotism, seek political influence by saving the people from the labor of thinking for themselves, and by exercising for them all that is valuable in the right of suffrage. The many suffer the rights to sleep, from mere indifference; and the few possess themselves of those rights, by means of their superior industry; and in a great multitude of cases, the exercise of the high duty of suffrage, resolves itself into the mechanical act of obeying a party nomination, or confirming the decree of a midnight caucus.

Of late years, the leaders of the parties have assumed to themselves the power of the people. An *Arbitrator* of the most odious character has been established; and a few men in each state, have undrunk to constitute themselves electors, in place of those whom the right of suffrage belongs. They have chosen the candidates for whom the people shall vote, and required the latter to confirm their nominations. They have, in effect, elected the high officers of the government, and carried upon the lawful electors, merely to give legal sanction to their acts of usurpation. Those especially who had officers, have been particularly active and forward in taking upon themselves the rights and duties of their fellow citizens, and in endeavoring to create in the hands of a privileged few, a monopoly of political power and official patronage. Members of Congress, boasting in the substance of Executive favor, as well as office holders, have arrogated to themselves the high privilege of deciding who shall be candidates for important stations; and of dividing among themselves, the influence of patronage, and the spoils of victory; of a victory gained by the people over each other. Thus have the suffrages of the many been perverted to the benefit of the few.

Indignant at these abuses, large portions of the people have determined, in the approaching election of Chief Magistrate of this Union, to select a candidate from among themselves, independent of any designation from office holders, party leaders, or political demagogues. They have resolved to choose an individual for President of this great Nation, whose name is not bound by party ties and political obligations;—one, who has stood aloof from the recent struggles for power, and is free from the enmities and alliances, incident to such warfare. They have determined to take a man, whose interests, and feelings, are identified with those of the great republican family. In coming to this conclusion, the people have not asked permission from their own servants at Washington nor sought advice from the holder of office, or the leader of a faction. They have thought for themselves and consulted with each other.

The result of these unbiased deliberations, in the primary meetings of the voters, in numerous places, and in different States, has been seen in the nomination of our distinguished fellow citizen, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, of Ohio, a suitable candidate for the office of President of these United States. The first public indication of the preference of the people for that illustrious patriot, statesman, and soldier, was exhibited in primary meetings, composed of citizens with out distinction of party, in the State of Pennsylvania. So decided and respectable a testimony of the wishes of the republicans of the federal Union—second to none of her sister states, in patriotism, intelligence, wealth and industry, would have been entitled to high consideration in other parts of the Union, even had it pointed to an individual, less popular, and deserving, than him towards whom it was directed. In presenting however the name of Gen. HARRISON, the Democratic citizens of Pennsylvania anticipated the wishes of thousands be-

yond her borders. In New York, Maryland, Vermont, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio, the nomination has been received with enthusiasm, and confirmed with cheerful promptness. In the west especially, it has not been forgotten, that at a gloomy period in our history, when our frontier was ravaged by a savage foe, the volunteers of Pennsylvania mingled their blood with that of the Pioneers, in defence of our firesides; and we are more than willing to arrange ourselves in the ranks of patriotism, with those who have stood arm to arm, and shoulder to shoulder with us on the battle field.

The citizens of Ohio, are therefore relieved from any embarrassment in making choice of a candidate for the Presidency, and from any scruples of delicacy in presenting the name of one of their distinguished citizens, by the spontaneous action of their brethren in our States, and by the wide spread expression of popular approbation, with which that nomination has been received. Ohio will not decline an honor voluntarily conceded to her by her sister republics and worthily conferred on a favorite citizen; a veteran pioneer, and an experienced statesman, whose long and faithful public services, have deservedly earned the appellation of the *Father of the West*. It is, however, to those whom we address, briefly to exhibit some of our reasons why the free men of Ohio, and of the West should prefer the name of HARRISON to those of several other eminent individuals, who have been nominated for the same high office.

The opportunities of General HARRISON for the acquisition of political knowledge, and practical experience in public affairs, have been equal to those of any of his competitors. He is not an untutored man. Forty years of active service have not lessened his capacity and faithfulness as a public servant. He has been placed in Military and in civil offices;—in the former as a Soldier, and in the latter, in various departments, the Executive, the Legislative, and the Diplomatic. He has administered the affairs of a Territory, served in the Legislature of a State, sat in the Congress of a nation, and represented his country abroad. He personally familiar with the military history, and resources of our land; with our complicated Indian relations; and with all that relates to the populous and growing States of the West.

The great length of Gen. HARRISON's public career, the variety and importance of the public trusts confided to him, and his appointments, are, to themselves, evidences, that he was successful in the discharge of his public duties, and retained through a long series of years, the confidence of the people, and of the government. But, however able in serving his country, his labors brought little commendation to himself.

His virtuous mind was not corrupted by ambition, nor by avarice;—he made no pretences to perpetuate in his own hands, the power that belonged to the people, nor engaged in private fortune, by the spoils of office.

That there are other distinguished men, whose talents and virtues give them an equal claim to the suffrages of their fellow citizens cannot be denied. But the fierce collisions into which most of those gentlemen have been thrown by the recent struggles for party ascendancy, have engendered prejudices too obstinate to be overcome, and given rise to sectional jealousies too deeply seated to be removed; so that their success in any general election, is at least doubtful if not impossible. Gen. HARRISON, with merits and abilities fully adequate for the station to which it is proposed to call him, and not inferior to those of any of his competitors, has the advantage of being entirely free from the shackles of political warfare.

He stands before the public on his own merits, untrammelled by party fetters; unpledged to party leaders; owning no superior but the laws; and under no control but that of the constitution and the people.

In looking back upon his public services, we see much to admire—much to win the grateful suffrages of a generous people—While yet a stripling, he followed the victorious banner of Wayne into the western wilderness, and bravely exposed his life, in defending the firesides of the Pioneers, from the tomahawk of the Indian. As a delegate from the North Western Territory, upon the floor of Congress, he was the bold and able advocate of the rights of the actual settlers; and gave the energies of his mind to the introduction of a system for the sale of the public lands, which enabled the industrious farmer to purchase a home, and saved the rich lands of the west, from the grasp of the speculator. As Governor of the North Western Territory, for thirteen years, he was the able statesman, the skillful negotiator with the Indians, the just and parental head of a young and scattered people. In this situation, immensities of money were placed at his disposal, for distribution, as his best discretion might direct, for which no security was given—the government confiding in his prudence and honesty. For a faithful application of the same. More than

a million of dollars passed through his hands, yet he never diverted a cent to his own use. Although invested with unlimited powers; yet he never violated the confidence reposed in him—he never forgot his responsibility to the government, or the people. His person, labor, and property, were freely offered on the altar of his country's weal, to uphold it, in the darkest period of its existence; and although poor, (and which by some has been urged as a serious objection to him,) yet his hospitality has been freely extended to all, and the old soldier especially has ever found a welcome at his fireside.

His brilliant services on the frontier, in the war which commenced in 1812, will live in the brightest pages of the history of his country. Called into the field by the voice of the western people, he fearlessly exposed his person to all the hardships and dangers of a free and difficult warfare. The Commander-in-Chief of a large army, badly provided, and forced to contend in the woods, against the combined Indian and British armies, he foiled the cunning of the savage, and the skill of the European soldier, and led his brave countrymen to victory. Although courageous, he was not violent or arbitrary. He enforced discipline by his firmness, his kindness, and his wisdom, and not by terror. He shared the same dangers and the same hardships, into which he led his gallant troops; and by treating them with justice, won their affections as well as their respect. In private life, as in the discharge of public duties, he has ever manifested a determined honesty of purpose, which has yielded to no temptation, either of wealth or of power; which has been swayed by no emergency in which he has been placed, and which has not only caused him to be respected as a public servant, but beloved and venerated as a man, by all who know him.

Gen. HARRISON is the *emperor*—the upright—the disinterested man. Mild, generous and unassuming, few are more deservedly beloved. As our neighbor and friend, we speak of him and most cheerfully bear our testimony in relation to his public services and private virtues, from personal observation.

The education and the associations of this distinguished individual have been such, as to imbue his mind with political opinions which we consider safe. The son of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence reared in the purest days of the Republic, with the example of the patriots of the Revolution before his eyes; he imbibed in early youth that hatred of tyranny, that love of freedom, those sound maxims of democratic simplicity, and independence, which characterized the great founders of our liberty. The framers of the Constitution were the friends of his youth, and the models on which he formed his character. From them, he learned that respect for the will of the people, and that devotion to country, which have characterized the actions of his public career, and we confidently believe, should be elevated to the highest office within the gift of freemen, that he would bring back into the administration of the government, those wise counsels and pure principles, which prevailed in the days of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. He would never, we are satisfied, countenance that system of intrigue and management, which has disgraced the latter days of the Republic; nor soil the National honor, by suffering office and emolument to be bartered away in reward of party services, and as the wages of political subservience.

The candidate whom we present to the suffrages of our fellow citizens, has mingled freely with the people, as their friend and equal; and he knows their wants, their wishes, and their opinions. He is emphatically a Western man, and as such, while a member of Congress, was found ably and faithfully supporting every measure which had for its object the promotion of western interests. He voted for the continuation of the National Road through this State, and in favor of appropriations for its continuation. He voted in favor of the donation of public lands to Ohio, for the construction of the Miami Canal. He voted in favor of settlement & pre-emption rights, to the industrious settler of the West. Trace him throughout the whole of his political life;—read his official dispatches his Congressional speeches, and especially his patriotic letter to Bolivar, which for felicity of thought, beauty of style, force and vigor of expression, and true American feeling, would do honor to any man living or dead, and all must concede to him a high order of intellect. In the Na-

tional Legislature, his voice was raised in eloquent appeals for the war-worn remnant of the Revolution, and the disabled sufferers of the late war; and the system of pensions to soothe their declining years, attests the patriotism and philanthropy of his exertions. Such is the individual, whose name is presented to the American people for the highest office in their gift, not by his own choice; not by the dictation of a self constituted Convention, but by the spontaneous call of the *democracy* of the land.

Associated with Harrison, as a candidate for the Vice Presidency, is FRANCIS GRANGER of New York. The high importance of this office, and the yet higher consequences it may assume in an event not impossible, and contemplated by our Constitution, render it necessary that it should be filled by a man of elevated talent, undoubted patriotism, and of the purest character. Such an one is GRANGER, the individual who has been unanimously nominated for that exalted station, by a Convention of your fellow citizens, rarely equalled for numbers, talent, patriotism, and intelligence. He is one of the distinguished sons of the *Empire State*; possessed of a high order of intellect, of liberal attainments, of virtuous and patriotic principles, and of great private worth. Possessing a thorough knowledge of mankind, great experience in public affairs, and a proper estimate of the relative powers of the State, and of the General government, he is peculiarly fitted to be a safe, useful, and prudent man, in every sphere of life, where duty might call him;—while his noble eloquence, fine genius, pure and elevated character, combined with his pleasing manners, would render him an ornament to the highest station, and reflect back upon his own State the bright beams of honor, with which her partial friendship had surrounded him. Having spent his life in the service of his country, his expanded mind looks beyond the narrow limits of sectional interest, to the good of the whole, and of every part. He is a statesman of high order; firm, intelligent, and consistent; a man of distinguished honor, and one in whom can be reposed with confidence and safety, the second highest trust of a free and enlightened people.

The gentleman, who is the nominee of the Convention for the office of Governor, has long been favorably known in Ohio. Who that has admired the struggles of the *"SELF MADE MEN"* of the West, to attain distinction, would wish to withhold from JOSEPH VANCE the meed which patient industry, moral worth, and honorable ambition, challenge as due at the hands of all men? Who is JOSEPH VANCE? When a youth, without education, or the means of education, he was found the supporter of a widowed mother, and a family of helpless orphans subsisted by the labor of his own hands. In after years, the confidence of his fellow citizens placed him in the councils of the State; where he became distinguished by the accuracy of his judgment, and his assiduity in the business of legislation. But the people were not content that his labors should be confined to the State. Accordingly, for fourteen consecutive years, he represented those who had known the Pioneer Yeoman, almost from his infancy, in the Halls of Congress. It has been said that the youth of the NOMINEE was not favored by the advantages of education. These disadvantages in later life, have been in a great degree overcome, by a judicious course of general reading, an extensive acquaintance with men, and long service in the National councils. His recommendations are found in his high moral character, sterling honesty, strict integrity, business habits, and democratic principles, all of which point to him, as peculiarly qualified to discharge satisfactorily the duties devolving upon the Executive of a great and powerful State.

The most prominent individual opposed to Gen. HARRISON, is MARTIN VAN BUREN, of New York. Who is he, and what claim does he present, to entitle him to the support of the American people? In looking back upon his political life, we find nothing to recommend him to our confidence, no moral firmness, no elevated national views, nothing to rank him in the class of statesmen, governed by settled enlarged, & liberal principles. None of those sentiments and feelings which unite us to our public men, and which bind them to the nation, can for a moment apply to him. He never risked, or sacrificed, any thing to patriotism or to friendship. The virtues and qualities of an able statesman, with the disposition to make all selfish considerations yield to the public good,

are what, judging from his past political course, we have no reason to expect from him. No one knows what are his principles, or what his opinions, and what he is, and what he thinks, is ever left in doubt. He has been of all parties. He has been attached to almost all the prominent men of the nation, and he has deserted all by turns, whenever his own interest would be promoted by the change. At one time, we find him opposing that great and good man, Dr. Wm. L. GAY, and using the most unjustifiable means to sacrifice him to his unhallowed ambition; at another, supporting the same individual as a candidate for the Presidency in opposition to Mr. Madison. At one time, he is found waging the most determined hostility to the administration of the last named patriot; and again, when the democracy of the land rallied to his support, relaxing in his opposition, and professing to become one of his defenders. At one time, while HARRISON was fearlessly exposing his life and risking his all in defence of his country, VAN BUREN is seen in the Senate of New York, attempting to paralyze his patriotic efforts, & secretly brooding over schemes of future political aggrandizement; at another, he assumes the character of a devoted patriot, anxious for nothing but the honor and glory of the nation. At one time he is found opposing the election of ANDREW JACKSON to the Presidency, and uniting with others, in *midnight caucus*, for the elevation of GRANGER; and soon, we behold him bending the knee and singing praises to that same individual, whom he had attempted to prosaure. He is the head of that church whose high priests have proclaimed to the world, as the fundamental doctrine of their political creed, that the *"spoils of victory"* (that is the offices of the people) are the aim as they are the just reward, of the *"victors."*

There is no one act of Mr. Van Buren's life, that can be pointed to as evidencing the just and enlightened regard of his fellow men. His conduct and settled opposition to the west, and to every measure calculated to improve her condition or to add to her numerical strength, is unequivocally evidenced by his speeches and votes, while a member of the United States Senate. He voted against the *continuation of the National Road through Ohio*, and against every appropriation for its preservation. He voted against the bill providing *"settlement and pre-emption rights"* to actual settlers; and thus deprived many an honest poor man of his home. He voted against donations of land to Ohio to prosecute her Miami Canal. It was Martin Van Buren who unhesitatingly declared in the New York Convention, the farther the power of electing the officers of government was removed from the people, the better. This is the man who is attempted to be fastened upon the freemen of the West, and whom they are deliberately called upon to support, for the most elevated station recognized by the American Constitution. Fellow citizens, it is for you to make the selection; it is for you to decide, whether that support shall be given to your friend and neighbor, who has stood by you in every emergency, and has ever proved himself the open advocate of your rights, or that individual who has always exhibited himself the avowed enemy of your DEAREST INTERESTS. Re-declupon the choice thus presented.

In conclusion we would observe, that the friends of Gen. HARRISON do not belong exclusively to any party. Among them are to be found many of the former supporters of Gen. JACKSON, as well as his opponents, who are now cheerfully uniting, and boldly rallying around the banner of the *Hero of Tippecanoe*. We assume to take a middle ground; and in yielding our support to "the people's candidate," we abandon no political principle heretofore avowed and acted upon. On this point the original friends of the administration, as well as its opposers, most precisely upon the same grounds. We are not bound together by devotion to any common chief. We claim, and exercise, each for himself, freedom of thought in judging, and freedom of action in pursuing the means best calculated to accomplish our common purpose. We act upon that great fundamental principle which enjoins obedience only to the command of duty, and bids us strike for freedom and our country. With these views let us rally as a united people around the Constitution; and use our best efforts to restore the administration of the government to its original purity, by electing a plain honest, intelligent, and experienced citizen; a man of acknowledged wisdom, undoubted firmness and unsuspected integrity; who in feeling and in conduct, will be the President of the NATION; having no other end in view but the public good, and employing no means that are not plainly and constitutionally just.

THE FAVORITE SON.

At the last March term of the Court of Common Pleas, Delaware county, N. Y., a young man about 24 years of age, by the name of Jonathan Thompson, was indicted for manning and disfiguring the person of his father. It appears from the evidence of the trial, that on some day in January the son was seen by two females near the cabin of his father, the rest of the family being absent. Soon afterwards the same females, who were the nearest neighbors, heard repeated cries of distress, and were afraid to approach the cabin. In a few minutes they saw the old man lying upon his back, on the ground near the cabin, stretching up his arms as if begging for assistance. They went to him and found him almost lifeless, with a piece bitten out of his upper lip, nearly the size of one's thumb, his eyebrows and ears chewed through and through and one arm from the hand to the shoulder covered with wounds made by the teeth. He was removed into the cabin and placed on the bed. His life was despaired of. The next morning the son was arrested, and his clothes were literally soaked and stiffened with blood—the blood of his father! It further appeared that the father and son were both in the habit of drinking spirits, and that there was under the influence of liquor, when he committed the outrage upon his father. He was his father's favorite son, and it appeared that they would occasionally have a drunken frolic together. There had been some previous misunderstanding in regard to the farm, and the son, who was peaceable and inoffensive when sober, but quarrelsome when drunk, had thrown out some threats against his father. When arrested in the morning, he was sober, and the officer took him to see his father. He almost fainted at the sight, and called for a tumbler of water, and a chair to sustain himself. His father refused to testify against him. He was his favorite son. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, & the wretched man was sentenced to the Penitentiary for three years, the victim of bad example and bad precepts. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

REVOLUTIONARY ANECDOTE.

A friend has communicated to us the following anecdote of olden times, which, like every thing pertaining to the Revolution, is worthy of record, and will be read with interest.

Burgoyne, the British General, who had vainly boasted to George III. that with 5000 men he could march through the colonies, from one end to the other, had encamped at Skeneborough (now Waterbury) with 10,000 the force he had asked from his King. While there, John M. D. a Scotch settler of Washington county, was seen with his weary nag making his way to the encampment of the British army. On his arrival he inquired for Gen. Frazer; for the traveller had seen service as a soldier under Frazer in the French war. They met and recognized each other, and cordial was that meeting. Two natives from the land of the thistle need but see each other in a foreign land, and they are brothers at once. But in this case our heroes had, beside being natives of the same soil, another tie to bind them together, that was "aid acquaintance."

After the customary congratulations between them, McD. intimated to the General that he had come to see him on business of a confidential nature. Frazer then requested his attendants to withdraw and asked John to inform him what it was. John then began; I have, said he, a wife and one son, and possess about four hundred acres of land, a small portion of which is under improvement, a comfortable house and out-buildings. My live stock consists of a horse which I have with me here, two cows and a few sheep. Now General, I have come to you for the advice of a friend, to know what I am to do in the present condition of this country. Frazer thought for a few moments, and then said, John there is no sitting on the fence; there is no half way work about it; there is but one course for you to pursue. You must go back and fight for your country. McD. started back as if thunder struck, not knowing what to make of it. On recovering from his surprise, with a serious air, hanging down his head and at the same time shaking it, he said, I can na, I can na do that I have sworn allegiance to George III, and I cannot break my oath. That oath said Frazer, can bind you no longer than your King protects you, and it is now doubtful about his being able longer to afford you that protection.

McD. bade farewell to the noble Scotch man, after receiving the injunction to keep this interview a profound secret until he should be no more, when he might relate it at his pleasure.

McD. plucked his honor, which was enough. He then returned home, slaved his musket and a better Whig never aimed at Tory. The generous, the honest, the noble Frazer fell at Saratoga, lamented by foes as well as friends; and McD. long lived to tell his fireside story, which he had kept a secret until after the death of his friend and adviser.

Troy Whig.